

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-25 and 27-36 remain in this application, with claims 1-2, 4, 10-21, 23, 25 and 27-36 amended, and claims 7 and 26 cancelled. By these amendments, no new matter has been added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 may be found on page 4, lines 3-17 and on page 11, lines 4-26. The remaining amendments are for consistency with the independent claims, or are otherwise clearly supported by the specification.

As defined by independent claims 1 and 21, the invention covers aggregation of original message data and said response message data from a plurality of remote information sources. The invention then makes this information available as aggregated data to a plurality of users. The user community is therefore able to view message data from multiple bulletin boards from a single source. The prior art fails to provide this capability, and these deficiencies are discussed in detail in connection with the pending rejections below.

Further novel and patentable aspects of the invention are defined in the dependent claims. For example, according to claim 24 users are able to respond to messages in the aggregated data, and the additional responses, or additional original messages, may be included in the aggregated message data. For further example, according to claim 25, the additional message data may be distributed back to the originating remote information resource. Further novel aspects include inserting advertising in message data that is distributed back to the remote information resources. The prior art fails to disclose or suggest the use of a message board intermediary and aggregator as defined by the pending claims, which are therefore allowable.

Claims 1-7, 16-18, 21-26, 31-33, 35 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Herz. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Herz concerns developing user profiles and applying these profiles to discover

information likely to be of interest to a particular user. Abstract. According to Herz, message boards are just another potential source for information. Herz fails to disclose or suggest collecting message data from a plurality of message boards, and providing it to a plurality of reception devices as aggregated message data. To the contrary, Herz teaches that users should communicate directly with other users or message groups. Col. 73:33-41. Concerning its information service, Herz expressly admits that it "serves only to locate existing communities." Col. 73:29-33. In other words, Herz discloses locating messages for particular users, but does not disclose aggregating messages from different boards on a common resource that is available to a plurality of users. More exactly, Herz fails to disclose a system or method configured for:

retrieving said original message data and said response message data from said plurality of remote information systems;

storing said original message data and said response message data; and

providing said original message data and said response message data to a plurality of reception devices, configured to allow the original message data and the response message data to be viewed as aggregated message and response data using any one of the plurality of reception devices

as defined by claims 1 and 21. Failing to disclose all of the claimed elements, Herz cannot anticipate these claims, which are therefore allowable. The remaining rejected claims are also allowable, at least as depending from allowable base claims.

Many or all of the dependent claims are also independently allowable over Herz. Because the independent claims are allowable, it should not be necessary to set forth the additional specific deficiencies of Herz with respect to the dependent claims at this time. However, it is worth noting that in general, Herz does not disclose steps of receiving message and response data from a plurality of users, and distributing this additional data to remote message boards or other resource, with or without insertion of advertising. Herz therefore cannot anticipate the numerous dependent claims that define a system or method operable to intervene in a plurality of remote information

resources, such as message boards.

Claims 8-15, 19, 20, 27-30 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and obvious over Herz and official notice. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the elements defined by 8-15, 19, 20, 27-30 and 34 were not common practices or otherwise known at the time the invention was made. A specific reference or references be therefore be provided, showing all the claimed elements. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed combination of elements would not have been obvious in view of email advertising and nominating, even if these were common practices. The prior art fails to contemplate or suggest taking these actions in combination with an aggregating central resource that operates to intervene in a plurality of remote information resources, as these claims define. These rejections should therefore be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 8-25 and 27-36 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited.

To the extent it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a two-month extension of time, extending to June 30, 2006 the period for response to the Office Action dated January 31, 2006. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-3683.

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